

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: 

Dennis C. Rodgers, Reg. No. 32,936
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 659-2811
Fax: (202) 263-4329

March 14, 2002

10070986-031402

MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS

10070986-031402

3. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], characterised in that the transfer members (13) are elongate and substantially straight with slightly obliquely upwardly end section, and extend in their active positions in the longitudinal direction out from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1) and with the end sections slightly obliquely upwards towards the conveyor (2).

4. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterised in that said transfer members (13) have roller paths (14) at least on the upper side of the end sections.

5. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, characterised in that the end sections of the transfer members (13) have circulating driven belts on which the timber pieces rest and which impart to the timber pieces an additional movement in a direction towards a sorting compartment (1).

6. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, characterised in that said transfer members (13) are movable in a substantially translation movement to and from active position.

8. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in [any of Claims 6 or 7] Claim 6, characterised in that the translation movement for the transfer members (13) is of adjustable length.

9. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, characterised in that the conveyor (2) has carriers (5) for supporting a timber piece with approximately horizontal longitudinal direction; and that the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction towards the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1).

10. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in [any of Claims 3 to 9] Claim 3, characterised in that said carriers (5) and the end sections of said transfer members (13) have approximately the same inclination.

10070986.03.1403
2014.09.03

10070986-031402

AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the transfer members (13) are elongate and substantially straight with slightly obliquely upwardly end section, and extend in their active positions in the longitudinal direction out from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1) and with the end sections slightly obliquely upwards towards the conveyor (2).

4. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that said transfer members (13) have roller paths (14) at least on the upper side of the end sections.

5. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the end sections of the transfer members (13) have circulating driven belts on which the timber pieces rest and which impart to the timber pieces an additional movement in a direction towards a sorting compartment (1).

6. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that said transfer members (13) are movable in a substantially translation movement to and from active position.

8. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, characterised in that the translation movement for the transfer members (13) is of adjustable length.

9. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the conveyor (2) has carriers (5) for supporting a timber piece with approximately horizontal longitudinal direction; and that the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction towards the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1).

10. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, characterised in that said carriers (5) and the end sections of said transfer members (13) have approximately the same inclination.

10070086-031402